

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Comcast Aerial Fiber Easement

Project No.: LURR 20180088

Project Manager: Dawneen Dostert—TERR-ROSS MHQA

Location: Clark County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to grant an easement to Comcast for the installation of an aboveground fiber coaxial cable, which would be attached to another utility company's poles that cross through BPA's North Bonneville-Ross-No. 1 & No. 2 transmission lines. The project would not involve ground disturbance.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 19, 2018

Attachment: Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

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Project Site Description

The project is located in Clark County, Washington, along Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) North Bonneville-Ross-No. 1 & No. 2 transmission lines, near tower 28/2 in Section 30, Township 2 North, Range 3 East. The parcels adjacent to the site are in agricultural use.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that this type of activity does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, per 36 CFR 800.3(a). The project is not located in, or near, any known archaeological sites, and the project does not require any ground disturbance; therefore, a BPA contract archaeologist has determined that there is no potential to affect cultural resources.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not involve any ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impact to geology or soils.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not involve any ground disturbance and the vegetation consists of grasses and rhododendrons; therefore, there would be no impact to special-status plant species.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not involve any ground disturbance or habitat removal; therefore, there would be no impact to special-status wildlife species.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not involve any ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impact to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.</p>		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not involve any ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impact to wetlands.</p>		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not involve any ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impact to groundwater and aquifers.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation: The proposed project would not change land use at this location, nor would specially designated areas be impacted.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The visual quality would not change at this location; therefore, there would be no impact.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Air quality would not be impacted by this project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Granting an easement would not change the ambient noise levels at this location.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be no impacts to human health and safety.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The utility right-of-way is BPA fee-owned. No landowner notification would be required for this project.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger, ECT-4

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Date: June 19, 2018